

## Notice of Allowability

Application No.

09/964,421

Examiner

Mohammad Ali

Applicant(s)

NAKAJIMA ET AL.

Art Unit

2166

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to 10/06/05.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-3 and 5-8 (renumbered as 1-7).
3. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
  - a) ☒ All    b) ☐ Some\*    c) ☐ None    of the:
  1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* Certified copies not received: \_\_\_\_\_.

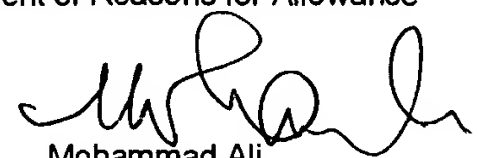
Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

**THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.**

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
  5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS ( as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
    - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review ( PTO-948) attached
      - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.
    - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

### Attachment(s)

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☒ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date 11/10/05
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☒ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date 12/21/05.
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other \_\_\_\_\_.

  
Mohammad Ali  
Primary Examiner  
Art Unit: 2166

### DETAILED ACTION

1. This communication is in response to the arguments filed on 10/06/05

After a search and a thorough examination of the present application and in light of the prior art made of records, claims 1-3, and 5-8 (renumbered as 1-7) are allowed.

Claim 4 have been cancelled.

### EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

2. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it **MUST** be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Attorney, James W. Edmondson, Registration No. 33,871 on December 21, 2005.

**Please replace the claims with new versions which was filed on 10/06/05 as follows:**

1. (Currently Amended) A design support system, comprising  
a device for managing a design file formed of a series of work procedure data, which is identified by ID and consists of at least one work procedure data portion;  
a device for recording a work procedure data portion, which corresponds to figure element data to be referenced, as specific information linked with a standard design file by ID for identifying the work procedure data portion when reference from the standard design file to figure element data contained in another design file is determined;

a first retrieval device for retrieving a corresponding work procedure data portion within another design file with ID, which is recorded in the specific information, used as a key in order to retrieve the each corresponding work procedure data portion when reference in the standard design file is executed; and

a second retrieval device for comparing a work procedure data portion of specific information or figure element data with contents of another design file when a corresponding work procedure data portion is not retrieved by the first retrieval device and retrieving a corresponding work procedure data portion on the basis of the compared result[.];

wherein the specific data includes figure data resulting from processing of figure element data targeted for reference, and an input pattern of work procedure pattern;  
and

the second retrieval device retrieves work procedure data targeted for reference with figure data as specific information used as a key, and if work procedure data is not retrieved, retrieves work procedure data targeted for reference with the input pattern of the work procedure data itself used as a key.

2. (Original) The design assist system according to claim 1, wherein the specific information is figure data resulting from processing of figure element data targeted for reference.

3. (Original) The design support system according to claim 1, wherein the specific information is an input pattern of work procedure data.

4. (Cancelled).

5. (Original) The design support system according to claim 2, wherein: the figure data includes a name determined for each of figure element data by a draftsman; and the second retrieval device retrieves figure element data targeted for reference with figure data as specific information used as a key by comparing names determined by the draftsman.

6. (Currently amended) The design support system according to claim 1 [4], wherein: the figure data includes a name determined for each of figure element data by a draftsman; and the second retrieval device retrieves figure element data targeted for reference with the figure data as specific information used as a key by comparing names determined by the draftsman.

7. (Currently amended) A design support method, comprising:  
managing a design file, on a design support system, formed of a series of work procedure data, which is identified by ID and consists of at least one work procedure data portion, and figure element data to be formed on the basis of each work procedure data portion;

recording a work procedure data portion, which corresponds to figure element data to be referenced, as specific information linked with a standard design file by ID for identifying the work procedure data portion when reference from the standard design file to figure element data contained in another design file is determined; said specific information including figure data resulting from processing of figure element data targeted for reference, and an input pattern of work procedure data;

retrieving a corresponding work procedure data portion within another design to file with ID, which is recorded in the specific information, used as a key in order to retrieve each corresponding work procedure data portion when reference in the standard design file is executed; and

comparing a work procedure data portion of specific information or figure element data which contents of another design file when a corresponding work procedure data portion is not retrieval and retrieving a corresponding work procedure data portion on the basis of the compared result; said work procedure data being targeted for reference with figure data as specific information used as a key, and if work procedure data is not retrieved, retrieving work procedure data targeted for reference with the input pattern of the work procedure data itself being used as a key.

8. (Currently amended) A recording medium storing a design support program and being computer-readable comprising:

a module for managing a design file formed of a series of work procedure data, which is identified by ID and consists of at least one work procedure data portion, and figure element data to be formed on the basis of each work procedure data portion;

a module for recording a work procedure data portion, which corresponds to figure element data to be referenced, as specific information linked with a standard design file by ID for identifying the work procedure data portion when reference from the standard design file to figure element data contained in another design file is determined;

a first retrieval module for retrieving a correspondence work procedure data portion within another design file with ID, which is recorded in the specific information used, as a key in order to retrieve the each corresponding work procedure data portion when reference in the standard design file is executed; and

a second retrieval module for comparing a work procedure data portion of specific information or figure element data with contents of another design file when a corresponding work procedure data portion is not retrieved by the first retrieval module and retrieving a corresponding work procedure data portion on the basis of the compared result[.];

.wherein the specific data includes figure data resulting from processing of figure element data targeted for reference, and an input pattern of work procedure pattern;  
and

the second retrieval device retrieves work procedure data targeted for reference with figure data as specific information used as a key, and if work procedure data is not retrieved, retrieves work procedure data targeted for reference with the input pattern of the work procedure data itself used as a key.

***Reason for Allowance***

3. The prior art made of records does not teach or fairly suggest the combination of elements, as recited in independent claims 1, 7 and 8. More specifically,

wherein:

the specific data includes figure data resulting from processing of figure element data targeted for reference, and an input pattern of work procedure pattern; and

the second retrieval device retrieves work procedure data targeted for reference with figure data as specific information used as a key, and if work procedure data is not retrieved, retrieves work procedure data targeted for reference with the input pattern of the work procedure data itself used as a key.

The dependent claims, being definite, further limiting, and fully enabled by the specification and are also allowed.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

***Contact Information***


4. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Mohammad Ali whose telephone number is (571) 272-4105. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Thursday (7:30 am-6:00 pm).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, John E. Breene can be reached on (571) 272-4107. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Mohammad Ali  
Primary Examiner  
Art Unit 2167

MA  
December 21, 2005

  
**MOHAMMAD ALI**  
**PRIMARY EXAMINER**